

REMARKS

In response to the final rejection, this RCE amends the claims to overcome the 35 U.S. C. §112, second paragraph rejections. Specifically, all reference to an associated fluid reservoir or an associated compressed source have been removed. It is respectfully asserted that although these terms were not deemed to be positive recitations, applicant is attempting to conform to the Examiner's requirements. Further, claim 9 has been amended to provide clear antecedent basis for the limitation "dispensing assembly".

With regard to the rejection based on U.S. Patent No. 3,223,173 – Paul, the Examiner rejected many of the claims as being anticipated by Paul, while still other claims were deemed to be unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103. The Examiner has taken the view that simply making an element hollow is well known. This, however, overlooks the function of the hollow stem and that although making a stem hollow may reduce the weight of a particular item, it has nothing to do with the function associated with the hollow stem. Particularly, the limitations in original claims 3 and 7 have been incorporated into claim 1. It is the selective engagement of the valve member with the stem that serves to provide different functionality which is not provided in Paul and as set forth in amended claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 and the remaining claims are deemed to define over any fair teach of Paul, whether considered individually, or in combination with other art of record.

The Examiner's statement regarding the interview is an accurate summary, namely, applicant's representative inquired whether it was proper to make the rejection final. Although applicant's representative respectfully disagrees, this point is now moot.

All formal and informal matters having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to that effect is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY SHARPE LLP

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Timothy E. Nauman", is written over a horizontal line.

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